CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

Sub a1

1. A system for enabling cooperative processing in a heterogeneous computer network, comprising:

a plurality of heterogeneous computer systems, at least two of the computer systems including a system specified user identification; and

an enterprise directory service, the enterprise directory service being shared by the plurality of computer systems to provide for the formation of an enterprise group, the enterprise directory service including at least one enterprise user which is associated with system specified user identification from the at least two of the computer systems.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein each of the computer systems comprises an enterprise directory service adapter (eDSA).

3. The system of claim 1, wherein the eDSA comprises at least one of a plurality of Application Programming Interfaces (API) for:

creating and deleting an enterprise user in a container in the enterprise directory service;

mapping between a system specified user identification and the enterprise user; and

creating encrypted packages for use between at least two computer systems in the enterprise group.

4. The system of claim 1, wherein the enterprise directory service further comprises a container, the container comprising the at least one enterprise user.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the enterprise directory service further comprises an enterprise administrator, the enterprise administrator capable of performing at least one of the following functions:

creating the enterprise group;

defining one or more enterprise users for the enterprise group;

creating a container for the enterprise group, the container comprising the enterprise users; and

creating an identity for an eDSA for each of the plurality of computer systems.

6. A method for enabling cooperative processing in a heterogeneous computer network, the network including a plurality of computers systems, comprising the steps of:

(a) administering a first of the plurality of computer systems operating under a first operating system platform through a first eDSA, the first computer system including a first system specified user identification;

(b) administering a second of the plurality of computer systems operating under a second operating system platform through a second eDSA, the second computer system including a second system specified user identification; and

(c) configuring an enterprise directory service to be shared by the first and second computer systems for the formation of an enterprise group, the enterprise directory

service including at least one enterprise user which is associated with the first and second system specified user identification.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the configuring step (c) comprises:

(c1) creating a container in the enterprise directory service, the container comprising the at least one enterprise user; and

(c2) creating an enterprise administrator.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the enterprise administrator is capable of performing at least one of the following functions:

creating the enterprise group;

defining one or more enterprise users for the enterprise group;

creating a container for the enterprise group, the container comprising the enterprise users; and

creating identities for the first and second eDSAs.

9. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

(d) invoking a request by the first system specified user identification on the first computer system to be serviced on the second computer system;

(e) servicing the request by the second system specified user identification on the second computer system; and

(f) returning a result from the second computer system to the first computer

system.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the invoking step (d) comprises:

(d1) invoking the request by the first system specified user identification on the first computer system to be serviced on the second computer system;

(d2) determining by the first eDSA that the first system specified user identification is associated with the at least one enterprise user;

(d3) packaging the request by the first eDSA as being invoked by the at least one enterprise user; and

(d4) forwarding the packaged request to the second computer system.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the servicing step (e) comprises:

(e1) receiving the request from the first computer system by the second computer system, the request being packaged for the at least one enterprise user;

(e2) determining by the second eDSA that the at least one enterprise user is associated with the second system specified user identification for the second computer system; and

(e3) servicing the request by the second computer system as if invoked by the second system specified user identification.

12. A computer readable medium with program instructions for enabling cooperative processing in a heterogeneous computer network, the network including a

plurality of computers systems, the instructions for:

(a) administering a first of the plurality of computer systems operating under a first operating system platform through a first eDSA, the first computer system including a first system specified user identification;

(b) administering a second of the plurality of computer systems operating under a second operating system platform through a second eDSA, the second computer system including a second system specified user identification; and

(c) configuring an enterprise directory service to be shared by the first and second computer systems for the formation of an enterprise group, the enterprise directory service including at least one enterprise user which is associated with the first and second system specified user identification.

13. The medium of claim 12, wherein the configuring instruction (c) comprises instructions for:

(c1) creating a container in the enterprise directory service, the container comprising the at least one enterprise user; and

(c2) creating an enterprise administrator.

14. The medium of claim 12, further comprising instructions for:

(d) invoking a request by the first system specified user identification on the first computer system to be serviced on the second computer system;

(e) servicing the request by the second system specified user identification on the

second computer system; and

(f) returning a result from the second computer system to the first computer system.

15. The medium of claim 14, wherein the invoking instruction (d) comprises instructions for:

(d1) invoking the request by the first system specified user identification on the first computer system to be serviced on the second computer system;

(d2) determining by the first eDSA that the first system specified user identification is associated with the at least one enterprise user;

(d3) packaging the request by the first eDSA as being invoked by the at least one enterprise user; and

(d4) forwarding the packaged request to the second computer system.

16. The medium of claim 14, wherein the servicing instruction (e) comprises the instructions for:

(e1) receiving the request from the first computer system by the second computer system, the request being packaged for the at least one enterprise user;

(e2) determining by the second eDSA that the at least one enterprise user is associated with the second system specified user identification for the second computer system; and

(e3) servicing the request by the second computer system as if invoked by

the second system specified user identification.

17. A method for cooperative processing in a heterogeneous computer network, the network including a plurality of computers systems, comprising the steps of:

(a) invoking a request by a first system specified user identification on a first of the plurality of computer systems to be serviced on a second of the plurality of computer systems;

(b) determining by a first eDSA on the first computer system that the first system specified user identification is associated with an enterprise user, the enterprise user being defined in an enterprise directory service shared by the first and second computer systems for the formation of an enterprise group;

(c) packaging the request by the first eDSA as being invoked by the enterprise user;

(d) forwarding the packaged request to the second computer system;

(e) determining by a second eDSA on the second computer system that the enterprise user is associated with a second system specified user identification for the second computer system; and

(f) servicing the packaged request by the second computer system as if invoked by the second system specified user identification.

18. A computer readable medium with program instructions for cooperative processing in a heterogeneous computer network, the network including a plurality of

computers systems, the instructions for:

(a) invoking a request by a first system specified user identification on a first of the plurality of computer systems to be serviced on a second of the plurality of computer systems;

(b) determining by the a first eDSA on the first computer system that the first system specified user identification is associated with an enterprise user, the enterprise user being defined in an enterprise directory service shared by the first and second computer systems for the formation of an enterprise group;

(c) packaging the request by the first eDSA as being invoked by the enterprise user;

(d) forwarding the packaged request to the second computer system;

(e) determining by a second eDSA on the second computer system that the enterprise user is associated with a second system specified user identification for the second computer system; and

(f) servicing the packaged request by the second computer system as if invoked by the second system specified user identification.